

— see *edw under*
Wayne Smith
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10/7/97

Dear Wayne,

Having heard nothing since my letter of a month or so ago relating to you/
idea for a Vanity Fair story by Ann Louise Bardack I assume you did not like it
and did not pass it off, she did not like it, or Vanity Fair didn't. I had recom-
mended instead of a rehash of what has been done before without much effect a
story about a major, an unprecedented scandal in our history and that relating to
what is inevitably a coup de'etat, intended or de facto.

I am aware of the Beschloss incomplete scholarship he finds profitable, The
Johnson Tapes, and of the Newsweek condensation, with key dates omitted.

Consistent with an aspect of what I believe is a major scandal Newsweek
altered entirely the meaning of what Russell told LBJ. I enclose that page of
Newsweek and the transcribed tape that I've had for months, both highlighted.

The obvious and explicit fact is that Russell believe he had forced a
modification in the language of the Report "to say that there was a difference in
the Commission on that," the single-bullet myth.

This is only part of the scandal that I have fully documented, and it again
suggests a knowing coup, with official agreement to cover it up. I am not up to
going into all of that now. I was up at Hopkins yesterday for the regular
cardiovascular check of the legs and the trip alone tires me excessively.

I have a news and magazine background but it is of so long ago I do not
claim it relates to today's realities, but I do say that by traditional American
concepts what I have in mind is important journalism that should, with attention
given it, cause a strong reaction.

I did not phone Bardack because I avoid toll charges. My monthly medicine
bills run from \$750 up I want for neither me nor "il to become a public charge.

The AP's story in the local papers was fairly honest as was the first radio
treatment of the Beschloss, before daylight yesterday on ^{CBS} CBS. After that the
little I could take in was anti-Castro. With no dates given. From the records I
have LBJ began by preaching a USSR conspiracy, his means of twisting Warren's
arm to get him to do what Warren knew and said he should not do, take the job.

To the best of my knowledge LBJ got off on his irrational Castro kick as the
result of the FBI's effort after the Eisenhower/CIA/ Mafia plot was exposed. It
was not and Johnson knew it was not a JFK plot.

Best,
Harold
Harold Weisberg